GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:396
ANSWERED ON:17.11.2016
Mineral Exploration Targets
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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to undertake mineral exploration in a planned and time-bound manner, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of mineral exploration targets fixed and achievements made during the year 2015-16 and 2016-17, so far, mineral wise;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the role played by the geologists in raising the standard of exploration in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(a) & (b): Yes. Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of the Ministry of Mines, takes up mineral exploration work through its annual field season programs (FSP). GSI also ensures that regional and detailed exploration is carried out systematically in a time bound manner following the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) guidelines (G4, G3, G2 & G1 stages of exploration). Further, GSI carries out off shore mineral investigation in the territorial waters (TW) and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of India using its research vessels as per its annual field season programs.

Besides, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), a PSU under Ministry of Mines is also carrying out exploration by promotional funding of Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Coal as per plans and timelines set by the government.

Mineral wise Target vs Achievement of GSI for FS 2015-16, and Target for FS 2016-17 is Annexed.

Mineral-wise physical targets and achievements of MECL are as follows:

Sl. No.
Mineral FY 2015-16 FY 2016-17
Target Actual Achievement Target Achievement
Drilling (m) Drilling (m) Drilling
(m) Drilling
(m)
Through promotional funding of Ministry of Mines, Mineral Exploration Fund (MEF) and National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)
1 Gold 2560 2868 3,000 -
2 Copper 5260 3439 5,000 1,076
3 Lead - Zinc & Copper 1280 108 - -
4 Molybdenum - 2894 1,000 1,207
5 Potash - 166 5,000 874
6 Iron - - 7,500 2457
7 Limestone - - 1,500 827
Total 9100 9475 23000 6441

(c) & (d): Yes. GSI continuously upgrades the knowledge and skill of its geoscientists and upgrades its equipment of field survey and laboratories as per the global practice. Geoscientists of GSI are provided with the state-of-the-art training, the logistic support, latest field equipment and laboratory support for achieving the objectives of the projects or activity they are involved in as per the field season programmes. Besides, the government also encourages collaborations with global exploration agencies for knowledge sharing and technological upgradation.